

- 19 -

CLAIMS:

1. A window cover comprising:
 a window cover portion moveable between an open
5 position and a closed position;
 a draw cord for opening and closing the window
 cover; and
 a coupling member in the draw cord, the coupling
 member having a first component with a first engaging
10 portion, and a second component with a second engaging
 portion for engaging with the first engaging portion, so
 that, should a load be applied to the draw cord, the draw
 cord will separate at the first and second components to
 thereby prevent the formation of a loop which may provide
15 a strangling hazard to a child.
2. The window cover of claim 1, wherein the first
 engaging portion comprises a generally part spherical head
 portion, and the second engaging portion comprises a
20 generally spherical socket for receiving the spherical
 head so that when a load is applied to the cord, the head
 can pull out of the socket.
3. The window cover of claim 1, wherein the first
25 component comprises a hollow bore having an enlarged
 diameter portion so that a first portion of the cord can
 be inserted through the bore and tied to form a knot so
 that the knot can be pulled back into the bore and located
 in a large diameter portion, and wherein the other
30 component also has a bore having an enlarged diameter
 portion so that the other part of the cord can be inserted
 through the bore and tied to form a knot and so the knot
 can be pulled back into the large diameter portion.
- 35 4. The window cover of claim 1, wherein preferably
 the window cover is a Roman blind having a plurality of
 rings coupled to portions of the Roman blind, the draw

- 20 -

cord passing through the rings, and the connector member being dimensioned so that the connector member can also pass through the rings.

5 5. The window cover of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is arranged in the draw cord by connecting the first component to a first part of the draw cord and the second component to a second part of the draw cord.

10 6. The window cover of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is connected in the draw cord by connecting the first component to the window cover and attaching the second component to the draw cord.

15 7. The window cover of claim 1, wherein the first component of the coupling member comprises a triangular shaped body having a pair of oblique arms and a base, a sleeve extending from the oblique arms at the apex of the oblique arms, the sleeve having an internal abutment, and
20 the second component comprises a resilient peg having a pair of legs which have feet for registry behind the abutment so that when the load is applied to the cord the feet can pull over the abutment because of the resilient nature of the peg, and the first and second components can
25 release from one another.

8. The window cover of claim 7, wherein the first component is connected to the blind by a saddle which is sewn to the blind and which passes over the base of the
30 triangular body.

9. The window cover of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is arranged so a first part of the cord is connected to the first component and a second part of the
35 cord is connected to the second component with the coupling member being arranged at an upper portion of the blind.

- 21 -

10. The window cover of claim 4, wherein the rings include a split or gap so the draw cord can pull through the split or gap of the rings when a load is applied to the draw cord.

11. The window cover of claim 10, wherein the split or gap is defined by a cut in the ring which is located at a portion of the ring remote from the blind.

12. The window cover of claim 10, wherein the gap is less than the width or diameter of the cord and the parts of the ring adjacent the cut or gap are resilient so those parts can flex to enable a cord to pass through the cut or gap when a load is applied to the cord and the cord in turn applies a load to the rings.

13. The window cover of claim 10, wherein the rings have indentations to enable the rings to be sewn to the blind so that the rings will not move through the stitching and therefore displace the split or gap from a position remote from the blind.

14. The window cover of claim 1, wherein a load take up member is provided in the draw cord for taking up short duration loads applied to the draw cord to prevent unwanted separation of the first component from the second component.

15. The window cover of claim 14, wherein the member comprises a spring or elastic member.

16. The window cover of claim 1, wherein the coupling member separates when a load of more than about 1.5 Kg (about 3 pounds) is applied to the draw cord.

17. A window cover comprising:

- 22 -

a window cover portion moveable between an open position and a closed position;

a draw cord for opening and closing the window cover portion; and

5 a coupling member having a first component coupled to the window cover and a second component connected to the draw cord, the first component having a first engaging portion and the second component having a second engaging portion for engaging with the first
10 engaging portion, so that, should a load be applied to the draw cord, the draw cord will separate at the first and second components to prevent the formation of a loop which may provide a strangling hazard to a child.

15 18. A window cover comprising:

a window cover portion moveable between an open position and a closed position;

a draw cord for opening and closing the window cover;

20 a load take up member coupled to the window cover;

a coupling member having a first component connected to the load take up member and a second component connected to the draw cord, the first component
25 having a first engaging portion and the second component having a second engaging portion for engaging with the first engaging portion, so that, should a short duration load be applied to the draw cord, the short duration load is taken up by the load member and the first and second
30 components do not separate, but if a longer duration load is applied to the draw cord indicative of a child becoming entangled in the draw cord, the first and second components will separate to thereby prevent the formation of a loop in the draw cord which may provide a strangling
35 hazard to a child.

19. The window cover of claim 18, wherein the load

- 23 -

take up member comprises a spring.

20. The window covering of claim 19, wherein the spring is located at an upper portion of the window cover and has one end connected to a top rail of the window cover and a second end connected to the coupling member.

21. The window covering of claim 18, wherein the load take up member comprises an elastic member.

10

22. The window covering of claim 21, wherein the elastic member is located at a lower portion of the window cover and has one end connected to the cover and another end connected to the coupling member.

15

23. The window covering of claim 21, wherein the elastic member comprises an elastic loop or elastic band.